



**Testimony presented by
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Less than two months after General Dwight D. Eisenhower accepted the surrender of Nazi Germany, he returned here to his hometown and delivered a speech not far from your own home.

In that speech, General Eisenhower – the man who orchestrated the largest naval invasion in history and liberated Europe from the iron grasp of Adolph Hitler – declared, “*The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.*”

Think about that for a moment. General Eisenhower had literally just saved the world from unspeakable tyranny, but the thing he was most proud of was that he was able to call Abilene his home.

That’s because it was here in Kansas that Ike learned the values that shaped him into the great man he was. Eisenhower didn’t learn how to be a leader at West Point, or on the battlefields of Europe. **Rather, it was his strong Midwestern upbringing that taught him the values he would rely on to lead our nation and the world.**

And now I need your help to make sure those values are passed on to future generations. While the federal government, through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), supports the overall structural, security and preservation needs of the archival and artifact collections at Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, it is the Eisenhower Foundation that provides funding for exhibits, programs, and events through generous contributions from donors.

A Special Opportunity for the State of Kansas: Senate Bill 140

Perhaps you’re aware that the Eisenhower Foundation has raised \$9 million dollars in private donations to conduct a comprehensive exhibit renovation. It is the largest fundraising campaign in the Eisenhower Foundation’s 73-year history, and the first comprehensive exhibit renovation in more than 45 years. It wasn’t easy to raise that private money. Why? The most common question donors asked during this campaign was, “**What is the State of Kansas doing to support the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum?**” Sadly, the answer is *nothing*. The Eisenhower Foundation believes that support for this world-class institution is best achieved through a dual approach; it is about both *private* support and *public* support. That’s where you come in.

Senate Bill 140 gives the State of Kansas the opportunity to provide the public support so important to our work. The bill would provide crucial funding to support the exhibits, educational programs, and community events at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home in Abilene, Kansas.....activities that bring 200,000 visitors to Kansas every year.

With interest in Dwight D. Eisenhower increasing as new records from his military career and presidency are declassified from our Library holdings, and as more and more K-12 students participate in our innovative IKEducation, sustained funding is essential. This will make it possible for the world, and a new generation, to learn more about Ike's unparalleled accomplishments as Supreme Allied Commander during World War II and the 34th President of the United States.

But more importantly, it is vital that we continue to educate current and future generations so our own Kansas children will continue to look to Ike as a role model. If our children can see what a "barefoot boy" from Kansas can accomplish when he works hard, it will inspire them to become leaders and heroes in their own way.

We cannot build on our momentum without an outpouring of your public support. This is your chance to leave a lasting impact that will inspire Kansas children for generations to come.

Thank you so much for considering this urgent request.